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ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

(Barrister-at-Law)

FOR

1939

ROCHFORD AND SOUTHEND:
PRINTED BY H. F. LUCAS AND CO.

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PRINTED BY H. F. LUCAS AND CO.

London Road,

Chelmsford,

1st November, 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rochford Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1939.

As directed by the Minister of Health the report has been considerably curtailed.

Owing to the abnormal conditions both before and since the outbreak of war a great amount of time has had to be given to other than normal public health activities.

In spite of the considerable movement of population into the area no increase in the incidence of infectious disease occurred and the general health of the community was maintained.

To my colleagues I am much indebted for their valuable assistance in the preparation of this Report.

For the sympathetic consideration and assistance received during the year, I beg to thank the Council.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.

STAFF

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health : John F. Macdonald, M.D., D.P.H., (also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural Districts of Chelmsford and Maldon.)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health : M. C. Barton, (in H.M. Forces since September, 1939.)

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT

Chief Sanitary Inspector : Bertram G. Ellis, A.R.San. I. (Housing Inspector under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909.)

Assistant Sanitary Inspector : R. E. Smith.

Clerk to the Sanitary Inspector : J. T. Clarke.

Surveyor : A. C. Madge.

ROCHFORD RURAL DISTRICT

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Statistics.

Area (in acres) .. .. 36,080 (land and inland water-ways)

Registrar General's estimate of
(a) resident population, mid-1939 ; 16,920
(b) average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates 17,300

Rateable value on 31st March, 1939 £89,443

The Sum represented by a Penny Rate on 31st March, 1939 £346 15s. 11d.

Social Conditions.

The majority of the adult population is engaged in agriculture. The industrial undertakings are limited and cannot be classed as detrimental to the health of the work-people.

Extract from vital statistics of the year.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births (B.R.)	Legitimate ..	242	141	101	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid—1939. 14.8
	Illegitimate ..	9	5	4	
Live Births (I.M. etc).	Legitimate ..	242	141	101	
	Illegitimate ..	9	5	4	
Still Births	Legitimate ..	11	9	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births. 49.2
	Illegitimate ..	2	2	—	
Deaths ..		183	99	84	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population. 15.8.

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 of total (live & still) births
No : 29 Puerperal Sepsis	nil	nil
No : 30 Other puerperal causes	nil	nil

Death Rate of infants under 1 year of age—

All infants per 1,000 live births	47.8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ..	45.5
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,, ..	111.1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	25
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	1

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1939.

	Rate per 1,000 resident population.		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births.
	Live Births.	Deaths from all causes.	
England and Wales ..	15.0	12.1	50
126 County Boroughs and great towns including London	14.8	12.0	53
148 smaller towns with estimated resident population of from 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census)	15.6	11.2	40
Rochford Rural District ..	14.8	10.6*	47.8

* In order to render this figure comparable with the death rate for the country as a whole, it must be multiplied by the "Comparability Factor," or as it is now styled the "Areal Comparability Factor (A.C.F.)," of 0.79 which has been supplied by the Registrar General as requisite to redress the abnormal constitution of the local population from the point of view of age and sex components. Applying this factor, the corrected death rate is 8.36 as compared with 12.1 for the country as a whole.

The deaths classified according to age were as follows :—

Age	No. of deaths
Under 1 year	12
1 and under 2	2
2 ,, 5	1
5 ,, 15	2
15 ,, 25	5
25 ,, 35	9
35 ,, 45	9
45 ,, 55	13
55 ,, 65	24
65 ,, 75	47
75 and upwards	60
Total	184*

*This is one more than the Registrar-General's figures for the same period.

The following table classifies the deaths according to cause and sex—

Cause of Death	Males	Females	Total
Influenza	2	1	3
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	4	3	7
Syphilis	1	—	1
General Paralysis of the Insane	1	—	1
Cancer	12	13	25
Diabetes	—	1	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage, etc.	8	3	11
Heart Disease	25	29	54
Other Circulatory Diseases	6	5	11
Bronchitis	3	2	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ..	4	3	7
Peptic Ulcer	2	—	2
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	1	—	1
Appendicitis	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver ..	—	2	2
Other Digestive Diseases	1	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	3	1	4
Congenital Debility and Malformation, Premature Birth	5	5	10
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	1	—	1
Senility	—	1	1
Other Deaths from Violence	6	1	7
Other Defined Diseases ..	13	12	25
Causes ill-defined or unknown	—	1	1
Totals	99	84	183

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities : Additional facilities to supplement those already available have been provided by the establishment of Emergency Public Health Laboratories, under the direction of the Medical Research Council, at Brentwood and Colchester.

Ambulance Facilities :
Nursing in the Home :
Registered Nursing Homes.
} These all remain the same as last year.

Treatment Centres and Clinics : The Combined Treatment Centre, Rocheway, Rochford now caters for those clinics previously held at the Congregational Rooms, Rochford.

Hospitals ; Public and Voluntary. At the beginning of the war the Isolation Hospital at Sutton Ford was closed down. Patients are now sent to Billericay.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water : The Southend Waterworks Company have laid mains in the Rochford Rural District during 1939 as follows :—

Parish	3″ Mains Yards	Miles	4″ Mains Yards
Canewdon	355	—	—
Hawkwell	—	—	148
Hockley	65	1	932
Rochford	—	—	120
South Fambridge	—	—	485
Sutton	—	—	1373
Totals	420	2	1298

Regular analyses are made of water supplies, a recent sample was reported on as "a satisfactory sample indicative of a pure and wholesome water, suitable for drinking and domestic purposes."

Drainage and Sewerage : The number of House Drainage Connections made during the year was :—

Parish	Connections
Hawkwell	6
Hockley	66
Rochford	19.
Gt. Wakering	2
	93

As the Council allow houses to be drained in combination, 108 houses have been connected to the sewer by the above 93 connections.

The Council's policy is to extend sewers from time to time in areas which appear to them to be insanitary, but no areas called for special treatment this year.

Under the Private Street Works Act, 1892, in the Parish of Hockley 2572 yards of sewer were provided during the year.

Closet Accommodation :

The following table shows the approximate number of sanitary conveniences at the end of the year :—

Water closets with proper flushing arrangements	4451
Water closets hand flushed	266
Pail closets, a small proportion of which have an arrangement for distributing dry earth	842
Privies	140
Privies abolished during the year	7

Public Cleansing :

The following are particulars of the House Refuse and Night Soil Collection Services at the end of 1938 and 1939, classified according to Parish :—

Parish	Scheme	1938 No. of Houses Scavenged for		1939 No. of Houses Scavenged for	
		House Refuse	Night Soil	House Refuse	Night Soil
Ashingdon	Combined Departmental	134	—	134	—
Barling	Contract	100	76	100	80
Canewdon	Combined Departmental	176	130	176	130
South Fambridge	do.	56	26	56	30
Foulness Is.	Contract	—	—	75	—
Hawkwell (1)	Combined Departmental	625	5	645	5
Hawkwell (2)	Contract	—	—	42	—
Hockley	Combined Departmental	709	59	712	62
Paglesham	Contract	—	—	82	—
Rochford	Combined Departmental	1365	15	1401	16
Stambridge	do.	111	82	111	82
Sutton (1)	do.	34	—	34	—
Sutton (2)	Contract	5	—	5	—
Great Wakering	do.	710	80	715	86
Little Wakering	do.	130	115	130	120
	Totals	4155	588	4418	611

Towards the end of the year a salvage scheme was put into operation in accordance with suggestions made by the Ministry of Supply to recover such materials as paper, metals, bones, rags, bottles, etc., in order that they might be utilised again by industry.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives details of the inspections carried out and notices served.

Inspections and Particulars of Notices for the year 1939.

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspections	Notices Outstanding at end of 1938	Notices Served		Notices	
			Informal	Formal	C'plied with	Outstanding at end of 1939
Disinfection	68	—	—	—	—	—
Infectious Diseases.. ..	88	—	—	—	—	—
Housing	162	15	44	2	58	1
Overcrowding	48	—	—	—	—	—
Schools	19	—	—	—	—	—
Cowsheds and Dairies ..	95	2	19	—	19	2
Milkshops	20	—	—	—	—	—
Bakehouses	15	—	2	—	2	—
Slaughterhouses	481	—	3	—	3	—
Knackers' Yards	3	—	1	—	1	—
Butchers' Shops	30	—	1	—	1	—
Privies	68	—	30	—	30	—
Water Closets	102	—	3	—	3	—
Cesspools overflowing ..	133	1	15	—	16	—
House Drainage	198	3	47	1	50	—
Defective Traps	—	—	—	—	—	—
Water Supply	234	1	64	2	63	2
Wells Cleansed	4	—	1	—	1	—
Dirty Houses	47	—	4	—	4	—
Drainage Reconstructions	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ashbins	135	—	26	1	24	2
Scavenging	186	—	—	—	—	—
Fried Fishshops	8	—	1	—	1	—
Tents, Vans and Sheds	41	—	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances	125	—	28	1	28	—
Totals ..	2149	22	289	7	304	7

There were also 42 inspections made of premises occupied by Ice-Cream Vendors and 13 inspections of Hairdressers' Saloons.

Smoke Abatement :
Swimming Baths and Pools : } No action taken during the year.

Eradication of Bed Bugs : The usual precautions were taken, but it was found that four Council houses and six other houses were infested and were treated appropriately.

Schools : Sanitary conditions are the same.

Camping Sites. Section 269, Public Health Act 1936 provides for the Licensing of Moveable Dwellings. During the year six Licences were granted to use land as sites for Moveable Dwellings and two Licences to station and use Moveable Dwellings.

HOUSING.

The following table gives details of the housing work carried out during the year. It will be seen that the work has been considerably interfered with as a result of other pressing duties and the outbreak of hostilities.

Number of new houses erected during the year ..	131
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—	
(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	107
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	162
(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	23
(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose	39
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. ..	5

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 40

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 57

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

By owners 1

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners 3

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners. .. 1

(*C*)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. 5

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—

(*a*)—(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 21

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. 21

(iii) ,, ,, persons (equivalent) dwelling therein 144½

(*b*)—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 5

(*c*)—(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year 3

(ii) Number of persons (equivalent) concerned in such cases 22

(*d*)—Observation is kept of the records of border-line houses so that when they become overcrowded due to the increasing ages of the inmates they are reported to the Public Health Committee. Owing to the above circumstances the number of cases remains at 21.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) **Milk Supply.**

Five Supplementary Licences to sell milk under the Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938, were issued during the year. Two Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" (Pasteurised) and "Pasteurised" Milks were issued to a Limited Company operating rounds within the District from premises outside, and two Licences to sell "Tuberculin Tested" and "Pasteurised" Milks were issued to a Limited Company with a depôt in the District. One Licence to sell "Tuberculin Tested" Milk was issued to a registered retailer in the District.

(b) **Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.**

At the end of the year there were fifty-one Cowkeepers,

in addition to fifteen Retail Purveyors and one Wholesale and Retail Purveyor of Milk, making a total of sixty-seven.

Three new Producers were registered ; two as Wholesale Purveyors and one as a Wholesale and Retail Purveyor.

One Retail Purveyor, not a cowkeeper, gave up business during the year, and two Producers, both Wholesale Purveyors of Milk, also gave up business.

Meat and Other Foods.

12 slaughterhouses were in use throughout the district and animals slaughtered in them were regularly inspected. Details of the number of animals inspected are given below. 13 cwts. 46 lbs. of meat were condemned as diseased or unsound or unfit for the food of man.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle, including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number inspected	110	73	501	2,164
All diseases except Tuberculosis :—				
Whole Carcases condemned	1	1	1	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	—	2	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	1.81%	1.37%	0.59%	0.23%
Tuberculosis only :—				
Whole Carcases condemned	—	—	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	6	—	—	35
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.45%	—	—	1.8%

Bakehouses.

There are 10 in the district.

In two cases informal notice to cleanse the premises was found necessary.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

As from 23rd October, 1939, cases of measles and whooping cough were made notifiable diseases but up to the end of the year only one case had been reported.

The number of diphtheria cases notified during the year was 28 as compared with 55 the previous year.

Towards the end of the year parents in a number of parishes were offered immunisation against diphtheria for their children, but the response was very disappointing and no sessions were held until 1940.

The infectious diseases are classified according to age and parish in the following tables :—

Notifiable Diseases during the Year. (Exclusive of Tuberculosis).

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 and over	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	19	—	1	3	—	1	7	3	—	2	1	1	—	13	—
Diphtheria ..	28	1	4	2	1	1	8	4	1	4	—	2	—	28	—
Enteric Fever .. (including Paratyphoid)	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia .. (Primary & Influenzal)	15	1	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	8	2	—	7
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ..	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ..	15	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	2	6	1	2	1	—
Measles ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	84	4	7	7	1	2	19	8	1	10	8	13	4	45	8

TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age	†New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1—5	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5—10	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
10—15	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15—20	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
20—25	1	5	..	..	..	1	..	..
25—35	1	3	..	..	..	2	..	..
35—45	1	1	1	..	1	..	..	..
45—55	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
55—65	3	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
65 and over	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
Totals	8	9	1	1	4	3	..	..

†Not including cases of Tuberculosis removed into the district during the year which had been previously notified elsewhere.

Table Showing Local Distribution of Cases Notified during 1939.

Parish	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Poliomyelitis	Erysipelas	Typhoid Fever	Measles	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Total
Ashingdon ..	1	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	7
Barling	3	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Canewdon ..	..	10	1	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	13
Fambridge, South	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2
Foulness ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2
Havengore ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Hawkwell ..	1	..	..	2	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	6
Hockley ..	4	..	..	4	..	1	..	..	..	3	1	13
Paglesham ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1
Rochford ..	9	13	..	6	1	7	1	..	..	7	1	45
Stambridge ..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	4
Sutton	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Wakering, Great	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	4
Wakering, Little	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Totals ..	19	28	1	15	1	15	2	1	2	17	2	103

REPORT OF PETROLEUM INSPECTOR

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

During the year 46 licences were renewed, 6 new licences were granted by the Council, 1 licencee gave up storing, and 131 inspections were made for the purpose. These licences permitted the storage of 45,998 gallons of petroleum spirit, 45,800 in storage tanks and 198 gallons in cans.

One licence was issued authorising the storage of 5 cwts. of Carbide of Calcium.

The fees received by the Council for these licences amounted to £32 10 0d.

I am, Madam, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

BERTRAM G. ELLIS,

Petroleum Inspector.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors

Premises (1)	Number of Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Prosecutions (4)
Factories with mechanical power	9	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	35	2	—
Total	44	2	—

2.—DEFECTS FOUND

Particulars (1)	Number of defects: Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	2	2	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7): insufficient	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7): unsuitable or defective	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7): not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Other offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937.)	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	2	—	—